

**TOPIC: STATE GUARANTEED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES,
REVIEW CYCLE VII, ROUND III, COMMUNICATION COURSES**

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I. SUMMARY

In compliance with C.R.S. 23-1-125, the Student Bill of Rights, contained in this agenda item are recommendations for courses nominated by institutions, reviewed by faculty, and recommended for the general education guaranteed statewide transfer program, gtPathways, during Cycle VII, Round III, and include Communication courses only (June 30, 2010). Guaranteed transfer means that a course is universally transferable among all Colorado public institutions of higher education and applicable to general education requirements within the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Science degree programs.

The recommendations contained in this agenda item represent the outcome of faculty consideration of 3 Communication course nominations for the gtPathways program. The Commission has previously approved 1200 general education courses in over 20 disciplines (e.g., English, math, history, biology, etc.) through eight cycles and three rounds of gtPathways course nominations, which began in January 2003.

The following table summarizes courses nominated and reviewed for statewide transfer during Cycle VII, Round III, Communication:

COURSE CONTENT AREA	TOTAL COURSES	NUMBER OF COURSES RECOMMENDED	NUMBER OF COURSES DEFERRED
Communications	3	2	1
TOTAL	3	2	1

II. BACKGROUND

Following the passage of the Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) legislation in 2004, the Commission began performance contract negotiations with the governing boards of all public institutions in the state. Included in performance contracts is a requirement that all institutions have lower division general education course requirements of between 30 and 40 credit hours and submit all the courses included in their required general education curricula for review and possible inclusion in the statewide transfer program. Colorado's public colleges and universities have established timelines for the submission of their general education courses to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). Beginning with the calendar year 2005 and continuing

through June 2009, all of Colorado's public post-secondary institutions submitted their general education core courses to self-selected members of the state's public two and four year faculty for peer review and inclusion in the gtPathways curriculum for guaranteed transfer.

The June 30, 2010 review was the third round of gtPathways review Cycle VII. As necessary to accommodate future volume, the DHE will schedule and facilitate additional review cycles throughout fall 2010 and spring 2011.

The list of recommendations on nominated courses found herein is the result of deliberations among two faculty members representing different public two- and four-year institutions in the state who met in Denver at the offices of the Department of Higher Education on June 30, 2010.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Initial policy (fall 2003), provided for the guarantee of up to 35-37 credit hours of successfully completed courses taken from the list of approved state guaranteed general education courses, which are published on the gtPathways page of the DHE website. However, in June 2005, the Commissioners approved changes to the statewide transfer policy that effectively reduced the guaranteed credit hours from 35-37 down to 31. Effective fall semester 2006 (August, 2006), gtPathways guarantees 31 credit hours of successfully completed courses taken from the approved state guaranteed general education list of courses. Additionally, the GE 25 Council, in agreement with Academic Council, revised the procedures and forms utilized in the gtPathways course review process. The courses recommended herein conform to the newly revised process, procedures, program rules and forms of the gtPathways program as well as the revised content and competency criteria.

A faculty review committee representing Communication content area faculty participated in the June 30, 2010 review and took one of two actions:

- Recommended a course for inclusion in the statewide program; or
- Deferred a course for a later review

DHE staff have communicated all of the faculty recommendations to institutions, including justifications for those courses receiving the "deferred" designation by faculty review committees.

Institutions will have the opportunity in future cycles to make any necessary corrections and/or revisions to courses that have been deferred during this cycle and re-nominate a course(s) for consideration and placement into the gtPathways curriculum.

Adoption of the attached list of courses below will continue the implementation of Colorado's guaranteed general education transfer program. Nomination and review of additional courses for consideration will continue during fall semester, 2010, and spring semester 2011, as necessary.

Pursuant to performance contract requirements, institutions must clearly distinguish guaranteed transfer courses from those not approved for guaranteed transfer in course catalogs and related materials; courses nominated for guaranteed transfer, but not approved, must be easily distinguishable from courses carrying the guaranteed status. In addition, prominently placed, in the general education section of the college catalog, shall be explanations of the distinction between courses approved for guaranteed transfer and courses not approved for guaranteed transfer to other Colorado colleges and universities.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission approve the Communication courses recommended by faculty reviewers for guaranteed statewide transfer status, effective August 2010 (fall semester 2010).

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights – degree requirements - implementation of core courses - on-line catalogue - competency test. (1) Student bill of rights. The general assembly hereby finds that students enrolled in public institutions of higher education shall have the following rights:

(c) Students have a right to clear and concise information concerning which courses must be completed successfully to complete their degrees;

(d) Students have a right to know which courses are transferable among the state public two-year and four-year institutions of higher education;

(e) Students, upon completion of core general education courses, regardless of the delivery method, should have those courses satisfy the core course requirements of all Colorado public institutions of higher education;

(f) Students have a right to know if courses from one or more public higher education institutions satisfy the students' degree requirements;

(g) A student's credit for the completion of the core requirements and core courses shall not expire for ten years from the date of initial enrollment and shall
be transferable.

(3) **Core courses.** The commission, in consultation with each Colorado public institution of higher education, is directed to outline a plan to implement a core course concept, which defines the general education course guidelines for all public institutions of higher education. The core of courses shall be designed to ensure that students demonstrate competency in reading, critical thinking, written communication, mathematics, and technology. The core of courses shall consist of at least thirty credit hours, but shall not exceed forty credit hours. Individual institutions of

higher education shall conform their own core course requirements with the guidelines developed by the commission and shall identify the specific courses that meet the general education course guidelines. If a statewide matrix of core courses is adopted by the commission, the courses identified by the individual institutions as meeting the general education course guidelines shall be included in the matrix. The commission shall adopt such policies to ensure that institutions develop the most effective way to implement the transferability of core course credits.